

**TOWN OF BEACON FALLS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MONTHLY MEETING
C/O TOWN HALL
10 MAPLE AVE.
BEACON FALLS, CT. 06403
11/6/19 (Subject to revision)**

November 11, 2019

Town Clerk Leonard C. Greene
c/o Town Hall 10 Maple Avenue
Beacon Falls, CT 06403

Dear Mr. Greene:

Please be advised that the **Town of Beacon Falls Board of Selectmen** has scheduled a **Special Monthly Meeting** for **Wednesday, November 6, 2019**. The Meeting will begin at **7:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Assembly Room, 10 Maple Ave., Beacon Falls, CT.**

AGENDA

Members Present: Chris Bielik (CB), Pete Betkoski(PB), Mike Krenesky (MK),

Others Present: Dave Rybinski, Douglas Bousquet, Stacey Betkoski, Mary Ellen Fernandes, Shawn Styfco, William McCasaland, Mary Anne Holloway, Gerard Smith

1. Call to Order/Pledge to the Flag: First Selectmen Chris Bielik called to order the meeting with the pledge of allegiance at 7pm.
2. Read and Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings

Motion to approve the minutes from the previous regular month meeting 10/7

MK/PB, all ayes

3. Comments from the Public - Limit to Three (3) Minutes

Servants with Christ motorcycle ministry: Gave a Flyer for an event that is open to public, family friendly, bike night. All are invited. We have trophies, where everyone can come together that haven't seen in awhile.

Chris B (CB): We can't add this to the agenda this evening but will add this to our next scheduled meeting to announce it. Stand by for that and go ahead with the insurance.

Mary Ellen Fernandes, 5 Sharon Dr: I wanted to Thank Mr. Betkoski, for all his time that he has given and time earned. He will be missed.

Pete B (PB): Thank you very much

Bill McCasaland, Coventry Lane: I would also like to echo what Mary Ellen said. Thank you Pete.

Doug Bousquet, Cedar Circle: Also, would like to thank Pete Betkoski

PB: Thank you all.

4. Resident Trooper/Police Report- deferred to Dec.
5. Wastewater Treatment Plant Report

Motion to approve as presented

PB/MK, all ayes

6. Report of Public Works

Motion to approve as presented

MK/PB, all ayes

7. Report of the Fire Marshal

Motion to approve as presented

PB/MK, all ayes

8. Report of the Finance Manager

MK: Is there going to be general training on the Street scan?

CB: We can ask, they had onsite training, but if there is additional need, we can inquire to see if anyone wants hands on and if there is additional cost to it?

Motion to accept and pass to Board of Finance for review at their next scheduled meeting November 12, 2019.

PB/MK/PB, all ayes

9. Report of the Tax Collector

CB: Mary Anne, Is there anything you want us to know about specifically?

MH: I can't think of anything specifically.

MK: Are there two sewer reports?

MH: Yes, there are two reports for the end of Sept, and Oct.

Motion to accept and forward to Board of Finance for review

PB/MK, all ayes

10. Report of the Town Treasurer

Motion to accept and forward to Board of Finance for review

MK/PB, all ayes

11. Report of the Town Clerk

Motion to accept and forward to Board of Finance for review

PB/MK, all ayes

12. Report from Economic Development

Motion to accept and forward to Board of Finance for review

MK/PB, all ayes

CB: As discussion this just happened today, the firm that is in Murtha that applied for the Economic Enterprise that the credit from the state was approved. Kudos all around, Sadie worked to make sure it went smoothly through. The heads of the company were thrilled with her participation. Congratulations to them. That will be included in next month.

13. Report of the Library

Motion to accept as presented

PB/MK, all ayes

14. Report of the Fire Department

Motion to accept as presented

MK/PB, all ayes

15. Any other Reports

- a. Report of the Custodian-none, next month for Oct and Nov
- b. Report of the Town Nurse - (Quarterly)-none needed
- c. Report of the Animal Control Officer-none, next month
- d. Community Media Center Building Committee (Previous Meeting Minutes) NONE - Mtg Canc.
- e. Park Trails Report-

Captain Al provided report

Motion to accept as presented September report

MK/PB, all ayes

CB: Discussion Item: Last item represented in BF, training Help to the Forest conference, Kudos to Captain Al, he is volunteering and staying engaged, doing a great job.

Motion to accept as presented October report

PB/MK, all ayes

16. Reading of Correspondence

CB: Thank you from Mary Ann Boticello for the floral arrangement Tony Botticello, Former Treasurer, Our condolences to MaryAnn and the rest of the family.

CB: A message from Pat Hinman from Planning and Zoning, is interested in continuing for reappointment. Chairman is interested in reappointment. Thank you, Pat for your continued service for this town. We will discuss this further in the meeting.

CB: A letter from 10/21 from Linda Holt- letter confirmed to retire as the Assistant Tax Collector, 12/31 is her last day. Linda is willing to assist with the transition for whoever is selected as her replacement. She won't be taking much time off which is gratifying for us, so that she can assist with transition.. Thank you, Linda for being accessible of your willingness to do that.

MK: Is it our intention to have someone on board before the 12/31?

CB: Yes absolutely, that will be discussed further when we have the meetings scheduled for conducting interviews scheduled 11/14.

CB: Letter to Arcadis- which is the oversight management group that oversees the landfill on Blackberry Hill. The report says they are responsible to paying us quarterly payment is due to the town for \$10,431.66.

CB: Email 10/30 Michael Opuszynski. He is in the process of selling his home and moving out of town. With regret, he submits his resignation on Inland and Wetlands Commission.

CB: Email: Ivana Potje and Lou Santora, residents of Beacon Falls, jointly are interested in filling in Conservation Commission vacancies.

Invoice:

CB: One Invoice for clerk regular monthly meeting 10/7

Motion to pay the invoice

PB/MK, all ayes

CB: That concludes correspondence

17. Old Business

a. Town Sesquicentennial Celebration - Update

PB: We had our first meeting a month ago, looking for volunteers, next meeting is on 11/13 at 7pm, held at the Senior center. We need to get the word out there.

MK: At our next meeting, we will have discussion on how many committees, anyone who is there, if they show up, they say they are interested you are going to be Chairman.

b. Rimmon Hill Water Issue – Update-

CB: Still waiting to hear back from Aquarion, they will need to know how to address where the water would begin. There are two ways to go, one go up route 67 up through Seymour or the second option is up through route 42. Both ways defy gravity, talking about pump stations, etc. There is going to be some time, before they can present something to us, and present to the people in a public hearing so that people can hear about it.

c. 2020 Meeting Schedule Dates – Review and approve

CB: The schedule for the prospective scheduling, hold to the second Monday of the month, one adjustment, that is in October but the rest of the months. Does anybody have any questions or concerns?

MK: As we have the First Elect Selectmen, I sent this copy to you about the meeting schedule, nothing unusual.

Motion to accept

PB/MK, all ayes

18. New Business

a. Appointments

CB: I entertain a motion to appoint Ivana Potje and Lou Santora for appointment to the Conservation Committee.

MK: Point of order, traditionally, during the month of November during election year, as best practice, we have not made any appointments, reappointments, signed any contracts or hiring of any body. What we have done, it's been a best practice, we have done a blanket motion, to extend the people so that the new administration has an opportunity to do these appointments. It is common that we do it, here are examples since November 2011, when Susan Cable left office. Sue Cable moved from November to December. Under yourself Chris, under 2015, Dom Soratino made a motion to extend the terms to December.

Under appointments as best practice, not do that, and extend blanket movement to end dates to November and December.

CB: First of all this is not a point of order, your point of order is out of order, however, I will address it under discussion. I will disagree, in the past these blanket motions to maintain quorums during the interim period, expiring the way that the meeting happens in early November, often not enough time for the commissioners to request to see if they are continuing or not. In this case, we have volunteers that express interest of these positions I absolutely, do not see what we are saying any relevance to what we are talking about tonight. I understand where you are coming from and vehemently disagree with it. I will again entertain the motion to appoint Ivana Potje and Lou Santora to be appointed to the Conservation Committee.

Motion to consider appointment Ivana Potje and Lou Santora

PB/CB, 1 NO, 2 to 1 that passed.

Reappointments in the month of November:

NW CT Public Safety Communications - Jeremy Rodorigo, exp. 11.8.19

Motion to accept Jeremy Rodorigo

PB/CB, 1 NO, 2 to 1 passed

Land Use - Marla Scirpo, exp. 11.4.19

Motion to accept Marla Scirpo

PB/CB, 1 NO, 2 to 1 passed

No written, verbal, traditionally for reappointments, we have often accept verbal requests

Bob Sharkey, exp. 11.21.19

Motion to accept Bob Starkey

PB/CB, 1 NO, 2 to 1 passed

Pat Hinman, exp. 11.21.19

Motion to accept Patricia Hinman to Planning and Zoning.

PB/CB, 1 NO, 2 to 1 passed

Tree Warden - Rob Pruzinsky, exp. 11.8.19

Motion to accept ROB Pruzinsky as the tree warden

PB/CB, 1 NO, 2 to 1 passed

1. Land Use/Open Space - Joseph Fitzpatrick - Term Expired 11/08/16

2. Conservation Commission – Ivana Potje & Lou Santora- see above

b. Reappointments

c. Blanket one-month extensions for any other expiring terms- don't know the status of their continuation to issue the blanket for all the extension of terms who is expiring,

Motion to accept one month blanket extension

PB/MK, all ayes

d. Job interview schedule for Assistant Tax Collector – discussion & action-
Commitments- Interview Part Time vacated by Beth Nelson, special meeting at 6pm,
As Linda Holt will be retiring, discussed need to have the transition to allow the new incoming candidate,
tax collector to allow for training, December January are the busiest times of the year, just to verify the next
interviews will be held on 11/14 at 6 pm- Pete and Mike are available and Mr. Smith are you available
Gerard Smith (GS): Yes

CB: Interviews will be set up with the time slots, will wait to here back from MCInnis HR

f. Tax Collector – discussion & action

CB: Lead on this, a background while still covering, the status, we have known for some time know as which had been a previously elected position, but it was the will of the public, the town clerk and tax collector to become hired position instead of elected officials. The thought process was that they are responsible for 99% of the revenue, as elected officials, the span of control was the allowed on the statutes, and the Board of Selectmen cannot take administrative or punitive or corrective action to an elected official. They can only be removed statutorily removed through Superior Court. We have had struggles about this. They have to bring revenue collection process, having no oversight, seem intuitively counterproductive. It was passed over whelming by the town, who required legislative action and that had been approved. It was approve to take action that the tax collector, last elected officials term, were going to be hired in those positions after their elected cycle. The elected cycle for the Tax collector is up 11/18/19. The town clerk, elected 2016, his term does not expire 11/2020, therefore is not impacted, for this election cycle. The tax collector official, was going to need to be replaced by the 11/18/19, therefore we started this process back in August putting together the job description, had to create a job description. It was then advertised, in newspaper, municipal job board, tax collector, ccm, which is the lobbying organization for all the 169 municipalities in the state. We broad blasted this advertisement for this position, in the same places the other two positions were advertised in the same places as the part time clerk and full time assistant tax collector position. When we advertised the whole purpose to contract HR firm, was to take bias, proprietor and took out of equation. I don't have the number in hand, but it was a couple dozen applicants for assistant tax collector, and town clerk. HR are the first line screeners, and winnow, first line interviews, down to a semi-finalists, ask them to review themselves. The town clerk is a little bit different, statutory authority; Len Greene has the ultimate decision for that. That is the process we use for all vacancies.

We put a closing date 10/25 for the Tax collector, and make a last week, the HR 10/23, they advised me they had one candidate. Discussing with HR, that is not something we expected, similar number of candidates, CEO, with that going to extend out for another week to 11/1. I received the word that HR has not received any other candidates, we received one applicant, HR recommendation, would only delay the process, damaging risk to the BF, tax collecting season is upcoming, tax collection to put in place. We have one qualified candidate and she has been working in the last 6 years as the elected official. In my humble opinion because I have the floor right now, in 2013 back taxes were over 2 million. Every year, I was told by Finance, I was told by Finance, it was last year 700,000, and this year 600,000, reduced by 75%, starting number not counting what has been added by the non-collection rate. How much money has been recouped, tell me why there is a good reason not to appoint the qualified candidate.

MH: I was told by Finance, I was told the next budget was going to be done by the auditors. Last year I was told 700,000.

CB: Just going by the start of the 2 million on 2013, and every single year, Mary Anne has recouped about 75%.

MK: In my humble opinion, nobody is more diligent as going back to back taxes. This decision should be held off. We have never hired anybody in this community without having an interview and HR, make the pitch to where we should be going. I think taking steps with protocol, you know where you are going with this, but I will be saying NO. Written down and how come this was not written.

CB: I will tell you that we have followed every protocol that HR has told us. I'm waiting to get something written but I have had verbal conversation with Mr. McInnis. I got something from his assistant but I want to get something from him. But based as the chief elected official I will be disagreeing.

PB: Chris covered everything with our current tax collector, in the last 6 years Mary Anne has been doing an amazing job. HR, following the emails, did extend time frame for more candidates and received none. I know where you are going with this and that's ok too. How could you doubt with Mary Anne's qualifications?

MK: This has nothing to do with Mary Anne's qualifications but this has to do with procedure. I believe that

PB: Do you think MaryAnn is qualified?

MK: Knowing that there is a new administrative coming in, what we have done in the past.

PB: New appointment as I can honor that the, anything I can do for the transition, but I'm But I'm adamant that to smooth transition. I'm going to endorse Mary Anne's position.

Motion to offer employment new hired tax collector

PB/CB, 1 No, 2 to 1 passed

CB: Thank you for the incredible service that you have done, and I know you will continue in your capacity.

Mary Ann: Thank you as taking the selectmen as position, that shows your fortitude.

Pete, You are a good selectmen, good for the town and what you are going to do.

PB: We need to have a smooth transition, we back the future Selectmen elect.

We are all honorable, for staying on, but especially for keeping you MaryAnn

Call a 5 minute recess at 7:52pm

Motion to accept recess

PB/MK, all ayes

Recess 7:54pm returned

19. Budget Transfer Requests (if needed)

Line 1093.673 Center for Domestic Violence, 1093.3914 Regional Council of government. Miscalculation, missed the CRPC of the dues

Motion to approve 500.00 transfer as presented to forward to Finance for action next Tuesday

PB/MK, all ayes

20. Executive Session (if needed)- none needed

21. Comments from the Public - Limit to Three (3) Minutes

Tom B, Oakwood Dr: Thank you for your service. I'm just a little confused, if you are going to remain on the Board, why pass these through? If you are confident in these people, don't understand the 11th hour, of appointments. If you were confident of these people if a month extension was possible, then I don't see why.

CB: I'd be happy to discuss offline.

William McCasaland, Coventry Lane: I know no doubt that Mary Anne is able to do the job, wonderful job, always consider a friend, we are friendly in public. Things go back in perception, let's get this meeting in after the election, and let's get these passed before the new administration gets to pass this. I always felt that it is perception. Under the radar, the announcement, feelings are hurt, animosity, get past that, MaryAnn is going to do a good job.

CB: MaryAnn is going to work for the public as she has worked for the past 6 years. The reason I took the time to capture in the minutes the procedure, to remove the perception that anything was being done in a negative way.

CB: She was the only candidate.

William McCasaland: I just think it would have been nice for First Selectmen Elect to be able to give her the job. I know she is qualified. It is about perception.

CB: I'll be happy to talk offline.

Mary Anne Holloway, Dolly Drive: If I can just answer Bill. The reason it was voted to get taken off being elected. Tax collectors to remove to vote to be elected to run as a party, if I win you will get to be tax collector, the elected tax collector has to come in, still get paid, we have had tax collectors in the past, that did abuse that. My point is I was here at this job one year. You have to change this job hired, takes 6-8 months to learn the system, and then really get started. I worked 6 years, any questions, you could observe me for 6 months, didn't have to interview special and let HR say so, this is a good person. I know we are a different process, try to be even, for you to say NO, it hurts me. It is still be political, hired position is better. I took this job, making \$10,000 more than full days, a year. Second year, \$12,500 a year, Whoopee, a lot of hours, I will prove this town, bring in money, did that on kind of pay. Now, I get a chance to make a decent salary, it is chance making something decent a regular tax collector.

CB: Wrap it up.

Mary Ellen Fernandes: 5 Sharon Dr: With these re-appointments, whether it should be done now, it is business as usual, just like transferring money, to make this time in the year, not political, these three men are here to conduct business.

Bill McCasaland: Mary Ellen, Mary Ann didn't say she didn't deserve the job, I voted yes, agree with it 100%, maybe as a courtesy, nothing goes against, the appointment, not your intent. I respect the board, whether democrat or republican, your serving the government.

CB: Chris Bielik, 119 Rice Lane: I'll Step aside as the First Selectmen, it has been a privilege.

Everyone stood, standing ovation.

PB: I want to reiterate, work together diligently, business as usual, I'm proud, I wanted to come under our watch, get her appointed. She earned that under our watch. Honorable, It is 3 of us here, 2 to 1, Chris and me, have butted heads, don't always, agree, I have to step down, I'll be back. I want the new selectmen to know that I'm here to help you. Chris, Hats off to you, we love you thank you for your time and service.

Mike and I aren't going anywhere, we have a big celebration to plan.

Mary Ann: I will do my best.

22. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:07 pm.

PB/MK, all ayes

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Moffat

Meeting Clerk, Board of Selectmen